



THE BLACK
PSYCHIATRISTS OF
AMERICA PRESENTS:

2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

*SHAPING HEALTH EQUITY:
FIGHTING FOR OUR MINDS*

APRIL 3-6, 2025
ATLANTA, GA

[HTTPS://BLACKPSYCHIATRISTS.ORG/BPA-SPRING-CONFERENCE](https://blackpsychiatrists.org/bpa-spring-conference)



Register



Black Psychiatrists of America



Hotel

Spring Conference 2025

Shaping Health Equity: Fighting for Our Minds

April 3-6, 2025

In collaboration with the Department of
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences,
Morehouse School of Medicine



The Starling Atlanta Midtown | 188 14th St NE, Atlanta, GA 30361

<https://blackpsychiatrists.org/bpa-spring-conference>

PROGRAM

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THE STARLING

188 14TH ST NE
ATLANTA, GA 30361
(404) 892-6000

THE GATHERING SPOT

384 NORTHYARDS BOULEVARD NW
ATLANTA, GA 30313
(404) 948-2459



Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc.
Napoleon B. Higgins, Jr. MD
Executive Director

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Washington, DC 20006
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March 4, 2025

Welcome to the BPA 2025 Spring Conference in Atlanta!

On behalf of the Black Psychiatrists of America, it is my great honor to welcome you to what promises to be our largest and most impactful conference in many years. We are thrilled to see such an incredible gathering of medical students, residents, aspiring psychiatrists, and esteemed colleagues—each of you representing the bright future of our field.

The remarkable growth of BPA is a testament to our collective dedication and the urgent need for culturally informed psychiatric care. As we convene in Atlanta, a city with deep historical ties to our mission, we are especially grateful for our ongoing partnership with the Department of Psychiatry at Morehouse School of Medicine. Their legacy and commitment to advancing Black mental health align perfectly with our vision.

This conference is more than a scientific exchange—it is an opportunity to renew our shared purpose, strengthen our community, and reinvigorate the spirit of psychiatry. As we continue this journey together, we are reminded that our quest is far from over. But with each of you here, we move forward with confidence and determination.

Let's make this an unforgettable conference. Welcome to Atlanta!

Napoleon B. Higgins, Jr., MD
Executive Director



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Exhibitors

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At Otsuka, we hold a deep respect for the value of every mind.

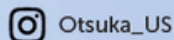
We will not rest until mental illnesses and brain diseases are approached with the same priority and urgency as our physical health and recognized as chronic diseases that warrant early, equitable, and accessible intervention.



Through products, programs, policies, and advocacy, Otsuka-people will defy any limitation that stands in their way until every mind is valued.



Discover our commitment to health for every mind





THURSDAY

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Sponsor/exhibitor check-in at The Starling prior to activities at The Gathering Spot

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Sponsor/exhibitor set-up at The Gathering spot for Thursday activities

2:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Poster presenters set-up their posters

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Sponsor/Exhibitor Set-Up at The Starling

Please Note: Programs will take place at The Gathering Spot during the day.

The evening welcome reception will take place at The Starling.

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Medical Student and Resident Brunch at The Gathering Spot

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM

Cultivating a Culture of Reflection: A Pathway to Addressing Microaggressions in Medical Training | Nicole K. Cotton, MD; Sheritta Carmichael, MD; Kristian Jones, MD; Sheril Kalarithara, MD

1:10 PM to 1:55 PM

Fostering Resilience and Equity: A 10-Month Review of Affinity Groups for Black Male Trainees | Francois Williams, MD; Antonio Igbokidi MD; Alan Wallace MD; Aaron Mack MD; Chijindu Diokpa MD; Caylon Pettis MD; Davin Bryant MD; Melvin Grimes MD; Jabbarius Ervin MD; Joel Miller MD; Joshua Martin MD; Nasir Jackson MD; Rufus Aderounmu MD; Aldwin Soumare MD; Percy Takyi MD; Marcus Wright MD; Matthew Wilcox MD

2:05 PM to 2:50 PM

No Broke Days: A Guide to Health Equity and Financial Freedom | C. Freeman, MD, MBA, FAPA; Kristine Goins, MD

3:00 PM to 4:15 PM

Medical Student & Resident Mentoring Hour at The Gathering Spot



THURSDAY

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Sponsor/Exhibitor Set-Up at The Starling

Please Note: Programs will take place at The Gathering Spot during the day.

The evening welcome reception will take place at The Starling.

4:30 PM-5:45 PM

Research, Industry, and Residency Reception & Career Speed Networking at The Gathering Spot

6:00 PM to 7:15 PM

Research, Industry, and Residency Poster Session at The Gathering Spot

Dementia: The Cognitive and Structural Changes A Retrospective Cohort Study | Dr. Shioban Heath-Cruise; Co-Authors: Prof Steve Jones; Dr. Ruth Taylor

Evaluating Trends in Pediatric Mental Health: A 10-Year Analysis | Ogechukwu Anwaegbu B.S; Adannaya C. Ihediwa B.S; Kadeem Archer-Idodo B.S; Oghenerukevwe Inikori B.S.; Chiedza Mutindori B.S.; Derek W. Neal; MD B.S.

Technically, by law, you're not a 'prostitute' if you're underage: The Importance of Language from the Perspectives of Girls and Young Women Affected by Commercial Sexual Exploitation | Sarah M. Godoy PhD; MSW; Mikiko Thelwell MD; MPH; Georgia E. Perris BA; Mikaela Kelly MD; MPH; Oree Freeman BA; Jasmine McDonald MSW; Elizabeth S. Barnert MD; MPH; MS; Eraka P. Bath MD

THURSDAY

Please Note: Programs will take place at The Gathering Spot during the day.

The evening welcome reception will take place at The Starling.

Opioid-Induced Constipation: A Persistent Challenge in OUD Treatment | Terrance C. Jenkins MD; Aalok Chandora MD

Navigating Bipolar Disorder in a Hispanic College Athlete: The Interplay of Collegiate Sports, Cultural Stigma, and Mental Health Challenges | Kiatana Ferguson-Square; Brianna Washington; Aaron Mack

Assessing the Dissemination of Information on Postpartum Depression on Instagram: A Social Media Analysis | Christiana Adebawale B.S.; Ogechukwu Anwaegbu B.S.; Jevaughn Henry M.S.; Marissa Gonzalez, DO

Development of an Evidence Map for Behavioral Health Research Associated with Gulf Hurricanes: 2017-2023 | Davin Bryant; Chikira Barker; Rahn Bailey

Medication-Assisted Opioid Therapy (MAOT) in Medicaid Expansion and Non-Expansion States: A Retrospective Study | Osaiyaoko Sylvia Omozee; *Adebosola Karunwi; *Travon Manning

A Mindful or Mindless Scroll: Diving into the Effects of Social Media Use on the Mental Health of Older Adults | Kiyana Harris



THURSDAY

Please Note: Programs will take place at The Gathering Spot during the day.

The evening welcome reception will take place at The Starling.

A Mindful or Mindless Scroll: Diving into the Effects of Social Media Use on the Mental Health of Older Adults, *continued* |

Terrance C. Jenkins; Victor Elensi; Eugenia Asare; Paolo Gilleran; Kisha Braithwaite

The Impact of Childhood Trauma on Depressive Symptoms Among African American Young Adults | Jermaine Blakley; Forough Saadatmand

8:00 PM

Welcome Reception at The Starling



FRIDAY

6:00 AM to 7:00 AM

Exhibitor Set-Up at The Starling

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Attendee Check-In at the Starling

8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Breakfast

9:45 AM to 10:30 AM

Forensics as a Frontier in Mental Health Equity: Taking Diagnostic, Cultural and Structural Expertise from From Clinic to Court

| Sarah Y. Vinson, MD; LeRoy Reese, PhD; Seyi Amosu, PhD; Yolanda Fountain, PhD, LPC

10:35 AM to 10:55 AM

American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry Ambassadors Program: Uplifting Historical Lived Expertise through Sustainable Models for Black Dementia and Elderly Care

| Carmen Black, MD, MHS; Charles Reynolds, MD; Terrance Jenkins, MD, MHS; Joshua Omade, MD, MHS; Trinity Hoskins; Kalia Overton

11:00 AM to 11:20 AM

Discerning Flexnerian Logic within Contemporary Narratives of Black American Physicians: The Result of Historical Institutional Segregation on the Lack of Black Psychiatrists

| Carmen Black, MD, MHS; Christopher Fields, PhD; Abigail Konopasky

11:20 AM to 11:35 AM

Break



FRIDAY

6:00 AM to 7:00 AM

Exhibitor Set-Up at The Starling

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Attendee Check-In at the Starling

11:35 AM to 12:20 PM

The Black Doc Brain Drain - Challenges in Recruiting and Retaining Black Physicians in Academia | Sarah Y. Vinson, MD; Folashade Omole, MD; Lynn Gardner, MD, MBA; Danielle Hairston, MD

12:30 PM to 1:45 PM

Lunch

2:00 PM to 2:20 PM

Racialized Variance in Psychiatric Prediction: Addressing Algorithmic Biases in Neuroimaging, and Cognitive Measures, while Building Parity through New Community Engagement Models | Christopher Fields, Ph.D.

2:25 PM to 2:45 PM

The Association between Social Connections and Suicidal Thoughts and Sadness Among Adolescents | Alex E. Crosby, MD. MPH; E. Alema-Mensah, PhD; A Walton, MD

2:50 PM to 3:35 PM

Navigating Digital Spaces: Advancing Mental Health Equity for Black Youth in the Social Media Age | DeJuan White, MD, DFAPA; Boluwatife Aluko, MD; Danae Evans, MD



FRIDAY

6:00 AM to 7:00 AM

Exhibitor Set-Up at The Starling

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Attendee Check-In at the Starling

3:35 PM to 3:50 PM

Break

3:50 PM to 4:35 PM

Adolescent Violence | Rahn Kennedy Bailey, MD; Tiffani Bell Washington MD

4:35 PM to 5:20 PM

Addressing Trauma and PTSD From A Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP) Perspective | D. Wayne Smith, MD, MBA, LMHCA, CCTP

5:30 PM to 6:45 PM

Author's Corner Reception

Prescribing Justice: A Doctor's Fight for the Truth | Dr. Joseph W. Poitier, Jr.

Counseling the Christian African American | Rev. Dr. LaSonja Richardson, DMin



SATURDAY

6:00 AM to 7:00 AM

Exhibitor Set-Up at The Starling

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Attendee Check-In at the Starling

5:30 PM

Exhibitor Break-Down at The Starling

8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Breakfast

9:45 AM to 10:30 AM

Misdiagnosis and Mental Health Risks in Foster Care: Addressing Screening Gaps, Misdiagnosis, and Developing Vehicles of Collaboration to Improve Diagnosis and Outcomes in Black Youth | Kimberly Peoples, MD; Briana Washington, MD

10:35 AM to 11:20 AM

Healing For Our Future: Building A System of Care Based Model of Comprehensive Youth Mental Health and Well-Being in Memphis | Altha J. Stewart MD, Alicia Barnes DO, MPH, Audrey Townsel PsyD, MHA

11:20 AM to 11:35 AM

Break

11:35 AM to 11:55 AM

Diagnosis and Misdiagnosis in African Americans: Addressing Persistent Diagnostic Inaccuracy, and Their Impact on Serious Mental Illness, Psychosis, Affective Disorders, and PTSD | William B. Lawson MD, PhD, DLFAPA



SATURDAY

6:00 AM to 7:00 AM

Exhibitor Set-Up at The Starling

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Attendee Check-In at the Starling

5:30 PM

Exhibitor Break-Down at The Starling

12:00 PM to 12:20 PM

Nutritional Psychiatry and BlackMental Health: Exploring Population Health Statistics and Plant-Food Intake in Community Depression | Harmonii Odinga, MPH

12:30 PM to 1:45 PM

Lunch

2:00 PM to 2:45 PM

Women's Mental Health Challenges Across the Reproductive Health Cycle: The Impact of Physiological Changes on Postpartum, Pre- and Post-Menopausal Periods | Roseanne Gichuru, DO, MBA, FACOOG, CPE; Mojirayo Sarumi, DO, MPH, FACOOG

2:50 PM to 3:35 PM

Black and Relaxed: Playful Activities to Harness African American Ancestral Strength for Collective Healing | Yolanda Fountain Hardy, PhD, LPC, LCMHC, ACS, NCC, RPT-S

3:35 PM to 3:50 PM

Break

3:50 PM to 4:35 PM

Fighting for Our Minds: Translating Theory into Practice with Data on Interventions and Directions for Future Research | Jason Barrett, MD; Sophia Barrett, PsyD



SATURDAY

6:00 AM to 7:00 AM

Exhibitor Set-Up at The Starling

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Attendee Check-In at the Starling

5:30 PM

Exhibitor Break-Down at The Starling

4:35 PM to 5:20 PM

LIMITLESS: The Dr. Chester Pierce Story |

Stephen McLeod-Bryant, MD; Gloria Respress-Churchwell



SUNDAY

7:30 AM to 8:30 AM

Breakfast

9:45 AM to 10:05 AM

Supernatural Religious Beliefs and Psychiatry

| Tiffany Benjamin, MD MPH

10:10 AM to 10:30 AM

Repeat Intentional Foreign Body Ingestion in a 'parasuicidal' high utilizer patient with co-occurring Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), Schizoaffective disorder and substance use disorder (SUD): A Case Report | Aaron Mack, MD MSc; April Ruffin, MD

10:35 AM to 11:20 AM

Pharmacogenomic Testing in Psychiatry: Evidence, Limitations and Potential Health Equity Implications | Morgan Freas, PharmD; Crystal Nelson, MD; Cecil Bennen, MD

11:20 PM to 11:35 PM

Break

11:35 AM to 12:20 PM

Ethnopharmacology Manners: Continuing to Advance Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Health in Black Communities | William B. Lawson MD, PhD, DLFAPA; Cheryll Cottrol MD; Edward Chapman MD



SUNDAY

12:25 PM to 1:10 PM

Incorporating Plant and Psychedelic Science into Residency Training | Stephanie Michael Stewart, MD; Nithya Ravindran, DO; AZA Allsop, MD, PhD; Amy Woods, MD

1:15 PM to 2:00 PM (45 minutes)

Building with "What's Left Behind": Addressing Gun Violence Aftermath and the Need for Mental Health Resources in Inner-City Communities | Billina R. Shaw, MD, MPH; Lisa Butler, LCSW; Karon Riley, BS; Annelie Primm, MD, MPH; Ruby Mendenhall, PhD

2:05 PM to 3:00 PM

Post-Conference Black Mental Health Survey with Health Literacy Media